

Some of the omissions of the book are a little surprising. Murphy's buttons are not mentioned. The ureters are dismissed by saying that if cut the ends should be sewed together, if possible, otherwise the kidney should be extirpated. Cholecystenterorrhaphy is not mentioned except as a procedure to cure a biliary fistula; and Alexander's operation is omitted entirely, retroversion being treated by removing an ovary and suturing the stump into the abdominal wound.

Another surprising feature is the etiological importance attributed to a chill. In the beginning chapters we are told to keep the patient warm while being tapped so that he does not "catch a chill" that may be followed by acute peritonitis. In other places we find a chill given as a direct cause of pyonephrosis, appendicitis, acute peritonitis, salpingitis, and suppuration of an ovarian cyst; and, at least, a predisposing cause of tubercular nephritis. After once having had an attack of appendicitis, the patient should be advised to wear a bandage the rest of his life to prevent having a chill.

But little use has been made of the recent literature in preparing the book. The illustrations are few, and consist mostly of anatomical diagrams and instruments. The descriptions of the operations are vague and lacking in detail. Usually only one method of doing an operation is given, and that often is not the best one.

On the whole, the book cannot be accepted as an adequate exposition of the present state of knowledge and practice in the field which it essays to cover. Its chief value lies in the information which it gives of the opinions and methods of the authors, and indirectly of their distinguished father, from whom the younger men have presumably derived their inspiration.

GEORGE R. WHITE.

ANTISEPSIS AND ANTISEPTICS. By CHARLES MILTON BUCHANAN, M.D. 12mo, pp. 352. Newark, N. J.: The Terhune Company, 1895.

In this little book is found an excellent summary of our present knowledge of antiseptics in the treatment of wounds. Beginning with a very good historical review of antisepsis in wound treatment,

there follows a brief discussion of the subjects of infection, susceptibility, and immunity. Then is presented a description of antiseptic agents proper, being a series of paragraphs in which every substance, in alphabetical order, for which any antiseptic power has been claimed is mentioned, more or less at length. The list is a bewilderingly long one, numbering 209 articles in all. Boracic and carbolic acids receive the most favorable mention ; the use of corrosive sublimate is discouraged and its value is very much discounted. As the reader progresses in the examination of this list, he comes finally to one which, according to the representations of the author, combines properties which make it superior to any other of the long list. It is a proprietary compound which can be obtained only from a certain enterprising firm of Western drug manufacturers. The real inwardness of this book is now patent. In the later chapters of the book, in which the special value of antiseptics in medicine, surgery, and obstetrics is set forth, the special virtues of this compound become again the subject of commendation. The order is this : antiseptics are valuable ; antiseptic powders are especially valuable ; the —— powder is the most valuable. It is greatly to be regretted that so evident an advertisement of a special proprietary preparation as this book is should have been able to command the co-operation of reputable surgeons.

L. S. PILCHER.

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